

# USDA



## Nebraska Farm Service Agency

# Producer News

April 2005

### SED Comments

Planting season is here and things are very busy at Nebraska Farm Service Agency. Loan season is still very active, the disaster program sign-up is under way, DCP sign-up continues and we are constantly working to improve our technology to serve you better. More and more of our programs are being offered through Web-based software and you are now able to sign up for program benefits online. I encourage you to ask your local office staff about some of the conveniences that are currently being offered to producers.

Secretary Johanns visited the Kearney Service Center in March. This was the first USDA Service Center that the new secretary visited and we were very proud that it was to a Nebraska location. He was very gracious to sign pictures and to take photographs with the staff. He was given a presentation on how FSA is using eGovernment to serve producers and he met with the Nebraska State FSA Committee. It was a great honor for all of the Kearney Service Center staff to host our newest Secretary of Agriculture and they represented Nebraska very well.

The Nebraska Platte Republican Resources Area Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreement was



*Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns poses with the staff of the Buffalo County Farm Service Agency office during his first official visit to Nebraska.*



*Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, right, and Deputy Undersecretary Floyd Gaibler, left, pause prior to signing the state's second CREP agreement. In the background are the volunteers who witnessed the signing.*

signed by Governor Dave Heineman and Floyd Gaibler, USDA's deputy undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

The ceremony was held at the Nebraska Prairie Museum in Holdrege, Nebraska on March 19, 2005. Water conservation is the primary goal of Nebraska's second CREP agreement. Producers that own or operate land in the 1.7 million acre area along the Platte and Republican rivers can contact their local FSA office staff for more information.

### 2005 Livestock Assistance Program

Livestock Assistance Program sign-up is underway at Farm Service Agency offices in 51 qualifying counties in Nebraska. LAP is a grazing loss program that will pay eligible livestock producers for grazing losses on a per head basis of eligible livestock.

To qualify for the program, a producer's grazing land must be located in a county designated as a primary disaster county

under a presidential or secretarial disaster declaration. The county must have incurred a 40% loss of moisture for four months and producers must have at least a 40% loss of grazing. A county may meet eligibility requirements for both 2003 and 2004; however, a producer in an approved county may receive benefits for only one of those calendar years.

The program will provide relief to livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses in 2003 and 2004 due to drought, severe weather and related causes.

A producer must have control of adequate grazing land to support the eligible livestock and the producer must possess beneficial interest in eligible livestock that have been owned or leased for at least three months. During 2003 or 2004, a livestock producer must have suffered a 40 percent or greater loss of grazing production for three or more consecutive months due to natural disasters.

Producers who reduced the number of livestock because of a natural disaster won't be penalized for those reductions. If, because of a natural disaster, a producer sold eligible livestock that were normally placed on grazing land on or after Jan. 1, 2003, the producers will receive compensation for the entire disaster payment period. For livestock that were sold in the course of routine business, producers will receive benefits for those animals only up to the date of sale.

Producers of dairy and beef cattle; bison and beefalo; goats; swine; sheep; and

certain equine, elk and reindeer are now eligible to participate.

A payment limitation of \$40,000 per person is in effect, and persons with a gross income from all sources in excess of \$2.5 million are ineligible.

### ***Acreage Reporting for FSA Programs***

Acreage reporting time is rolling around. As a producer, you should remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required if you want to receive marketing assistance loans, loan deficiency payments and payments for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). On crops for other than NAP purposes, acreage reports are to be certified by June 30 for small grain and July 15 for all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grain and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

## ***Crop Disaster Assistance Program***

Sign-up is underway for the 2003-2004 Crop Disaster Program. CDP authorizes crop loss assistance for producers who suffered 2003 or 2004 crop losses stemming from damaging weather and related conditions.

Eligibility for the current program is similar to that of the 2001-2002 crop disaster program. Producers suffering greater than a 35-percent production loss or more than a 20-percent quality loss are eligible.

The payment rate has been increased to 65 percent of the established commodity price for insured crops and noninsured crops, and 60 percent of the price for uninsured commodities.

Producers may apply for assistance for any crops that are eligible for coverage under the Federal Crop Insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, also known as NAP.

The payment limit is \$80,000 per producer. Producers with an average adjusted gross income that exceeds \$2.5 million, when less than 75 percent of that income is derived from farm, ranching and forestry, are ineligible for CDP benefits. Any producer who did not purchase federal crop insurance or NAP coverage for the year disaster program payments will be issued must do so for the next two subsequent crop years as a requirement of receiving program benefits.

The closing date for this sign-up will be announced later.

### **Nebraska Farm Service Agency**

State Committee

Milton Rogers, Chairman

Rob Anderson  
Ronald Ochsner

Mary Gerdes  
Dennis Richters

Brian Wolford, State Executive Director

Mike Sander, Administrative Officer

Bob Jedlicka, Farm Loan Chief

Greg Reisdorff, Conservation & Environmental Programs

Dan Steinkruger, Production & Compliance Programs

Doy Unzicker, Price Support Programs

## ***Changes in Farming Operations***

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to your FSA office staff as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property.

## **2004 2nd Advance Counter-cyclical Payments**

The 2002 Farm Bill provides for counter-cyclical payments for covered commodities. Advance counter-cyclical payments are issued in October and February following the crop year. Producers are eligible for:

- 35 percent of the difference between the effective price and the target price in October;
- 70 percent of the difference between the effective price and the target price in February, minus the first advance, if the producer took a first advance.

**2004 Crops and Rates.** The following table indicates crops that received a second advance CC payment and the payment rate for that crop. 2004 crops that have been determined to receive a second advance CC payment are eligible for a pay-

ment because the effective price is below the target price. The effective price equals the direct payment rate, plus the higher of the national average loan rate or the national average price received by producers. The second advance CC payment rate is 70 percent of the result of the target price minus the effective price. The table, below, illustrates the payment rate calculation for Nebraska's eligible crops.

Wheat producers who did not elect to receive the first advance payment of \$0.035, but elected to receive the second advance, will receive only \$0.014. If the actual price received by producers equals the projected price, wheat producers who elected the first advance will be required to refund a portion of the advance. The final payment rate for wheat, oats and barley will be determined July 2005.

Item	Wheat \$ per bu	Corn \$ per bu	Sorghum \$ per bu	Barley \$ per bu	Oats \$ per bu	Soybeans \$ per bu
<b>Target Price</b>	3.92	2.63	2.57	2.24	1.440	5.80
National average loan rate	2.75	1.95	1.95	1.85	1.330	5.00
Projected national average price received by producers	3.38	1.95	1.70	1.75	1.400	5.10
Higher of loan rate received by producers	3.38	1.95	1.95	1.85	1.400	5.10
Direct payment rate	0.52	0.28	0.35	0.24	0.024	0.44
<b>Effective Price</b>	3.90	2.23	2.30	2.09	1.424	5.54
<b>Second Advance CC Payment Rate</b>	0.0140	0.2800	0.1890	0.1050	0.0112	0.1820
<b>Less First Advance</b>	0.0350	0.1400	0.0945	0.0525	0.0056	0.0910
<b>Equal Balance</b> (if first advance received)		0.1400	0.0945	0.0525	0.0056	0.0910

Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties.

### ***Deadline for Loans, LDPs***

May 31 is the final availability date for requesting a commodity marketing assistance loan or loan deficiency payments for 2004 crop year corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and oilseeds. To qualify for loans, you must retain beneficial interest in the commodity from the time of harvest through the

date the loan is redeemed or CCC takes title to the commodity. For LDPs, you must retain beneficial interest in the commodity from the time of harvest through the date the LDP is requested.

The quantity of a commodity pledged as collateral for a nonrecourse loan must satisfy CCC's minimum grade and quality requirements. These requirements are not in place for LDPs.

You do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program to be eligible for loans or LDPs, but the crop must have been certified.

### ***Maintaining Beneficial Interest***

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments can mean the difference between a good year and a not-so-good year. With that in mind, it's important to comply with the rules, especially the rule regarding beneficial interest.

To be eligible for loans and LDPs, you must have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date the loan or LDP is requested and, in the case of a loan, you must retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding.

Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make all daily decisions about the commodity; being responsible for loss or damage to the commodity; and maintaining title to the commodity. When a producer receives payment for the commodity is only one consideration. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan or LDP — even if you regain beneficial interest.

## Reporting Farm Operation Changes

It is the program participant's responsibility to notify FSA of changes in farming operations or entity status throughout the year.

Changes that might affect an official determination include, but are not limited to, a change in contract shares that might reflect a change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

## GIS Maps and Official Acreage

The Nebraska FSA has now moved all of our acreage determinations to our Geographic Information System. You have been notified of your "official acreage" in the common land unit, or CLU. The CLU is our official term for a field.

We are utilizing 2003 color imagery as our official photography. Imagery was acquired statewide in 2004 and will be flown again in the summer of 2005. The

## Dates to Remember

May 30, 2005	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA offices closed.
May 31, 2005	Final date for HWWIP enrollment.
May 31, 2005	Final loans/LDP availability date for feed grains, soybeans and pulse crops.
June 1, 2005	Final date to sign 2005 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract.
June 30, 2005	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4, 2005	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices closed.
Aug. 1, 2005	Final date to request reconstitution.
Sept. 30, 2005	NAP application closing date for crop year 2006 alfalfa, grasses, mixed forage and fall-seeded annual crops.

2004/2005 imagery has a 2.0 meter resolution, while the 2003 color imagery had a 1.0 meter resolution.

If you have not obtained a set of maps, they are available from FSA. We believe the GIS maps created using current technology and software provide the best system of determining acreage USDA has ever had available. Direct GIS questions to your local FSA office staff.



*Damage from drought has caused this corn crop to be stunted and sparse.*

## New Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

On March 19, 2004, USDA and the state of Nebraska signed a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program agreement. The agreement generally covers land in the Upper Platte River Basin (from Kearney west to the Wyoming line) and the Republican River Basin. The CREP agreement is designed to remove irrigated land from production and be devoted to permanent CRP grass for 10 to

15 years. In return, producers will be paid irrigated rental rates established for their area. The primary purpose of this CREP area is water conservation.

The CREP sign-up begins on April 4, 2005. Interested producers should contact their local FSA office.

## 2005 DCP Sign-Up Continues

The DCP sign-up period for fiscal year 2005 continues to June 1, 2005. The CCC-509 form, "Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract," includes base acres, payment acres, payment yields, producer payment shares, advance direct and counter-cyclical payment selections and signatures of the operator, owner(s) and FSA representative.

The CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1, 2005. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509. Forms with signatures that are obtained after June 1, 2005, but before Sept. 30, 2005, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-file fee of \$100.

Producers must file (or have on file a current version of) the following documents to be eligible for DCP payments: the CCC-509, a farm-operating plan (CCC-502 and related forms), an average adjusted gross income certification (CCC-526), a certification of compli-





*Small trees have been planted as a conservation buffer along with grasses along a stream*

ance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions (AD-1026).

A report of the crop acreage of all cropland on the farm (FSA-578) is needed by the acreage reporting deadlines before final payments can be issued.

## **Value Added Producer Grant**

Approximately \$14.3 million was released on March 7 for eligible agricultural producers, agricultural producer groups, agricultural cooperatives and majority controlled producer-based business ventures for use in Value Added Agriculture projects.

The purpose of the program is to encourage independent producers of agricultural commodities to process their raw products into marketable, value-added goods, thereby increasing farm income.

You can apply for up to \$150,000 in Working Capital funds or up to \$100,000 in Planning Grant funds. Applications are due May 6, 2005.

Please contact USDA Representatives Cyd Janssen-Chadron, (308) 432-4616;

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## **Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Funding for Farmers, Irrigators, Nebraska Businesses**

USDA Rural Development anticipates up to \$22 million in grant funds to become available for energy efficiency and related projects for Nebraska farmers and businesses.

Energy Efficiency Improvement grants can be used by farmers, irrigators and businesses for irrigation improvements, replacements and conversion projects, as well as typical business related energy improvement projects such as heating/cooling improvements, insulation, windows, doors, and air and pumping systems, etc.

Irrigators, specifically, may consider the program for pump and gear-head improvements, power unit or pivot changes or conversion of water distribution systems to save and conserve energy. Other projects possible under this program include wind turbines, solar systems, methane digesters, biomass systems, etc.

Subject to final rules, grants for up to 25 percent of project costs and a maximum of \$250,000 (minimum of \$2500) for energy efficiency projects may be available. In some cases, this program may also work in conjunction with Natural Resources Conservation Service's EQIP funding.

The application period for this program is still pending and is expected by spring of 2005. Farmers, Irrigators, Businesses interested in this program should prepare for the application period by doing the following now:

- Contact your USDA Rural Development specialist about your proposed project.
- Work with your local utility, extension educator and vendor to determine the type of energy efficiency improvements you should consider. For instance, an irrigator may need to determine whether equipment simply needs to be recalibrated or does equipment need to be replaced; or can a gravity system be converted to a pivot system to save energy.
- Have your local or regional utility complete an energy assessment or audit for your project.
- Obtain approximate costs from a vendor for your proposed project.

Once you have completed these two items, the final application packet will be simplified. You should stay in touch with your local Rural Development specialist and obtain an application packet as soon as funds are available.

For renewable energy projects, work directly with your specialist for details appropriate for renewable energy technology.

These anticipated energy efficiency improvement grant funds are a good opportunity for farmers, irrigators, and businesses. Contact your USDA Rural Development specialist!

Website for Information: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html>.

USDA Rural Development Specialists for this program:

State Energy Coordinators:	Cliff Kumm or Deb Yocum	402-223-3125
Beatrice Specialist:	Jan Knobel	402-223-3125
Columbus Specialist:	Dan Laska	402-564-0506
Ainsworth Specialist:	Mary Gambill	402-387-2242
Scottsbluff Specialist:	Tim Brooks	308-632-2195
North Platte Specialist:	Beth Fries	308-534-2360
Kearney Specialist:	Karissa Hagedorn	308-237-3118

Mary Gambill-Ainsworth (402) 387-2242; or Karissa Hagedorn-Kearney, (308) 237-3118; Teresa Olander-Bloomfield, (402) 373-4914 and Deb Yocum-Beatrice, (402) 223-3125 for specific information and application assistance.

Also visit our Website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm> as well as the UNL Food Processing Center's Website at <http://www.fpc.unl.edu/Newsworthy/grant.htm> for a template to assist you in compiling an application.

## **FSA Farm Loans Available**

Any farmer or rancher who might need an FSA guaranteed loan or a direct loan must apply as early as possible because some FSA loan programs may not have adequate funds for the entire year.

To inquire for a loan, you should contact the local FSA county office where you plan to farm or ranch.

Nebraska lenders can submit guaranteed loan requests to help existing or beginning farmer or rancher customers.

The FSA guaranteed loan program allows lenders to extend terms longer than normal, which may allow for a positive cash flow.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans are available to purchase or refinance debts for terms of 20 to 40 years, and operating loans are available to purchase or refinance chattels for terms up to 7 years.

Five-year line-of-credit guaranteed loans are available for annual operating expenses.

On term operating loans and line-of-credit loans, interest assistance is available to reduce the interest by 4 percent for customers who are unable to repay at the regular interest rate.

Also, balloon payments can be scheduled on operating loans if a longer amortization is needed and there is real security or stock cows available for security.

Nebraska FSA encourages the lenders, the farmers and the ranchers to analyze their income and expenses for the past year and review their cash flows to determine their needs for the 2005 operating year.

## **Beginning Farmer, Rancher Loans**

Beginning farmers or ranchers can get a "regular" farm ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans finance up to 100 percent of the land's purchase price (up to the \$200,000 loan limit), and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

The interest rate can be either the "regular" rate of 5.125 percent (as of April 1, 2005) or the "limited resource" rate of 5.00 percent (as of April 1, 2005).

The regular farm ownership loan funds may also be utilized in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years.

**Qualification:** Beginning farmer applicants must have been farming for at least three years and not more than 10 years. Applicants cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the average farm size for the county.

To apply for a loan, you should contact the local FSA county office where you plan to farm or ranch.

## **Beginning Farmer Down Payment Ownership Program (10-40-50)**

**Purpose:** Obtain help financing the purchase of a farm up to \$250,000 of the purchase price or the appraised value, whichever is less. The applicant must put down 10 percent. FSA finances up to 40 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 50 percent of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible.

**Rates:** The FSA loan for 40 percent will be locked in for the full 15 years. Cur-

rently the rate is 4 percent. The loan for the balance of 50 percent should be the rate the contract holder or lender would charge an average customer.

**Qualification:** Beginning farmer applicants must have been farming for at least three years and not more than 10 years. Applicants cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the average farm size for the county.

## **Direct Operating Loans**

**Purpose:** Obtain up to \$200,000 to finance your farm business. This includes annual operating and family living expenses, machinery or breeding livestock purchases, refinance debts other than FSA (incurred for authorized operating purposes) and real estate improvements or repairs (limited to \$15,000 per year).

**Rates:** The interest rate is the rate in effect at the time of loan approval or loan closing, whichever is lower. Rates are posted on a monthly basis. Refer to FSA staff for information.

**Terms:** The term of the loan cannot exceed seven years from the date the loan is closed.

## **Guaranteed Loans**

**Purpose:** Obtain up to \$813,000 in Guaranteed Farm Ownership and/or Farm Operating loans. Funds can be used to purchase or enlarge a farm, refinance debt or for most operating uses.

Under this program, your local lender makes the loan and FSA provides a guarantee of up to 95 percent (depends on the circumstances) on the loan. This allows your local lender to continue to help you even if you are experiencing a decline in your financial condition.

**Rates:** The interest rate is negotiated with the lender but should not exceed the rate charged to his or her average customers. You could qualify for Interest Assistance (4 percent rate reduction) if your cash flow shows the need. If you qualify for the 4 percent reduction, it will be reviewed yearly until your cash flow shows sufficient improvement to pay the full rate.

**Terms:** Loans for real estate can be amortized for up to 40 years and for chattel up to seven years.

### **Existing FSA Borrower**

It appears FSA may run short of loan funds again this year. Therefore, we encourage each of you to complete your 2004 farm records along with your 2005 farm plans and make an appointment with your local officer as soon as possible. If you think you may have trouble making payments, there may be programs to assist in rescheduling or reamortizing your payment schedules.

### **Attention Socially Disadvantaged Farmers**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A Socially Disadvantaged Applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office staff for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### **Emergency Loans**

**Purpose:** FSA may make Emergency Loans (EM) to eligible family farmers that will enable them to return to their

normal operations if they sustained qualifying losses resulting from natural disasters. To be eligible for these loans, you have to have farmed in a county designated as a disaster.

**Rates:** The interest rate for the emergency loan is 3.75 percent.

**Terms:** Most EM loans may be for up to seven years; however, if the loan is secured only on crops, it must be repaid when the next crop year's income is received. Loans to replace fixtures to the real estate may be scheduled for repayment up to 40 years.

**Deadline:** The final date for making an application for an EM loan is eight months after the disaster is declared.

### **Conservation Compliance**

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, and the Federal Agricultural Improvement Act of 1996, discourages the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetland converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.

Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

### **Removing CCC Loan Collateral**

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office au-

thorization or repayment. The county office may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan, and denial of future farm-stored loans and LDPs.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain contact the county office staff for additional information.

### **Deadline to Provide 2004 Production Records for NAP Purposes**

In order for producers to qualify for 2004 NAP benefits, they are required to certify or provide crop production history and report current crop year production on or before the immediately subsequent crop year acreage reporting date for the crop (i.e. for small grain crops the reporting date is June 30, 2005, for all other crops the reporting date is July 15, 2005), except for grazed forage, controlled environment crops, and value loss crops.

Failure to report production by the production-reporting deadline shall result in the disapproval of any CCC-576 (Application for NAP Payment) associated with the current year's production.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## ***eLDPs for Wool, Mohair and Pelt Producers***

County office staff now have the availability to establish eLDP profiles for the 2005 crop year wool, mohair, and pelts through the Internet. This means that wool, mohair and pelt producers, with established customer service profiles, can eLDP their 2005 crop without going to the county office.

For more information about doing eLDPs on wool, mohair, and pelts, contact your local county office staff.

## ***NAP Coverage Deadline for Crop Year 2006***

It is never too soon to be thinking about purchasing Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Coverage (NAP) for crop year 2006. The NAP assistance can soften financial losses

caused by natural disasters, but only if you've applied for coverage and paid the application fee. The application deadline for 2006 NAP crops is soon approaching.

The application closing dates for crop year 2006 are as follows:

September 1, 2005: Value Loss Crops, Nursery Crops, Turfgrass Sod, Christmas Trees and Aquaculture.

September 30, 2005: Grass, Alfalfa, Mixed Forage's and any crop that can be fall-seeded (i.e. rye, wheat and triticale)

December 1, 2005: Honey, Apples, Cherries, Plums, Strawberries, Asparagus and Grapes

March 15, 2006: Spring-seeded Annual Crops (i.e. barley, oats, and vegetables)

The NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of

production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. NAP coverage is equivalent to Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance and is available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities produced for food or fiber for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock.

Producers who already have coverage on 2005 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2006, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage on the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the applicable service fee.

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